

Fort Lewis, Post Hospital  
(Building 4290)

HABS No. WA-205-A

Near Ninth Division Drive and East Idaho Avenue  
Tacoma Vicinity  
Pierce County  
Washington

HABS  
WA-205-A  
ST-FOLEN,  
WA-

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94107

HABBS  
WASH  
27-FOLEW,  
2A-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

FORT LEWIS, POST HOSPITAL  
(Building 4290)

HABBS No.WA-205-A

**Location:** Fort Lewis  
(nr. 9th Division Drive & Idaho Avenue)  
Tacoma Vicinity  
Pierce County  
Washington

U.S.G.S. Fort Lewis Quadrangle (1:24000)  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
10 529760 5215980

**Significance:** HABBS/HAER Inventory card prepared in November 1985 identified Fort Lewis Post Hospital (Building 4290) as a Category III historic property and a contributing property within the Fort Lewis Historic District. Fort Lewis is significant as one of a small number of military posts constructed during the Army's first major peacetime program of permanent construction. The architecture and site plan of the Fort Lewis Historic District represent an environment created over a twelve-year period from 1927 to 1939, that implicitly conveys the values of Army at that time. The district also represents an important period in the development of Fort Lewis.

**Description:**

Overall dimensions: Irregular plan with multiple wings; Main (northwest) wing is 302'11" x 48' (per HABBS Photo WA-205-A-1), northeast rear wing is 38'-6"x 99', center rear wing is 91'-6"x 38' and southwest rear wing is 38'-6 x 99'. Main (northwest) wing is three-story w/basement with attached northeast & southwest wings that are two-story w/basement, the center rear wing at southeast side is one story w/basement.

Foundation: Reinforced concrete foundation.

Structural system: Load bearing red brick masonry walls laid in 5/1 common bond pattern; wings on the northeast and southwest have a reinforced concrete structural frame with wood panel wall systems.

Roof forms/covering: Gable at main and center rear wing, hipped at attached northeast & southwest wings. All roof coverings are clay barrel tile.

Exterior architectural features: Main entrances (northwest & southwest elevations) with glazed wooden doors & transoms in classically detailed stone surrounds, sunporch fenestration.

Windows: Two-over-two double hung multi-paned wooden sash w/transoms typical, stone sills, masonry flat arched lintels, and half-round windows at main (northwest) and center rear wings.

Interior features: Intact original interior wall finishes, architectural and utilitarian features including mahogany doors with window transoms (per HABS Photo WA-205-A-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10), linoleum, terrazzo and tile floor finishes, historic lighting fixtures, central entrance vestibule & stairway, sunporch spaces and nurses' stations.

Alterations: Building 4290 has received a variety of interior changes and alterations in order to modernize it for hospital/clinical purposes. The two 1940 wing additions to the southwest and northeast sides of the rear elevation, door alterations and the installation of steel fire escapes are the only substantial exterior changes to the original 1928-29 facility.

**Historical Context:** The main wing of Fort Lewis Post Hospital (Building 4290) was constructed 1928-1929. Three wings were added shortly thereafter and another two wings were added in 1940. The initial 1928-29 brick hospital facility replaced an earlier wood frame hospital complex which was located in the same immediate area and was associated with the initial development of Camp Lewis cantonment in 1917. Building 4290 served as the post hospital until 1944, when the old Madigan General Hospital (Fort Lewis Station Hospital - Section 5) was constructed in order to meet W.W.II era mobilization and evacuation hospital needs. Building 4290 continued in use for hospital purposes during the war, known as Fort Lewis General Hospital - Section 1 and then as Madigan General Hospital - Section 1. It's primary function until 1951 was to provide obstetrical services for the wives of commissioned and non-commissioned officers stationed at Fort Lewis and to serve as a polyclinic for the treatment of various diseases. The obstetric services were relocated to old Madigan General Hospital in 1951, after which Building 4290 was used exclusively as a dispensary and for Troop Medical Clinic purposes. Since 1992, portions of the building have housed special medical services for Fort Lewis officers and enlisted personnel and dependents including drug and alcohol treatment programs.

**Sources:**

Architectural Drawing Records, Housing & Engineering Services, Fort Lewis, WA.

Fort Lewis National Register Nomination, June 1986.

Fort Lewis Real Property Cards, Housing & Engineering Services,  
Fort Lewis, WA.

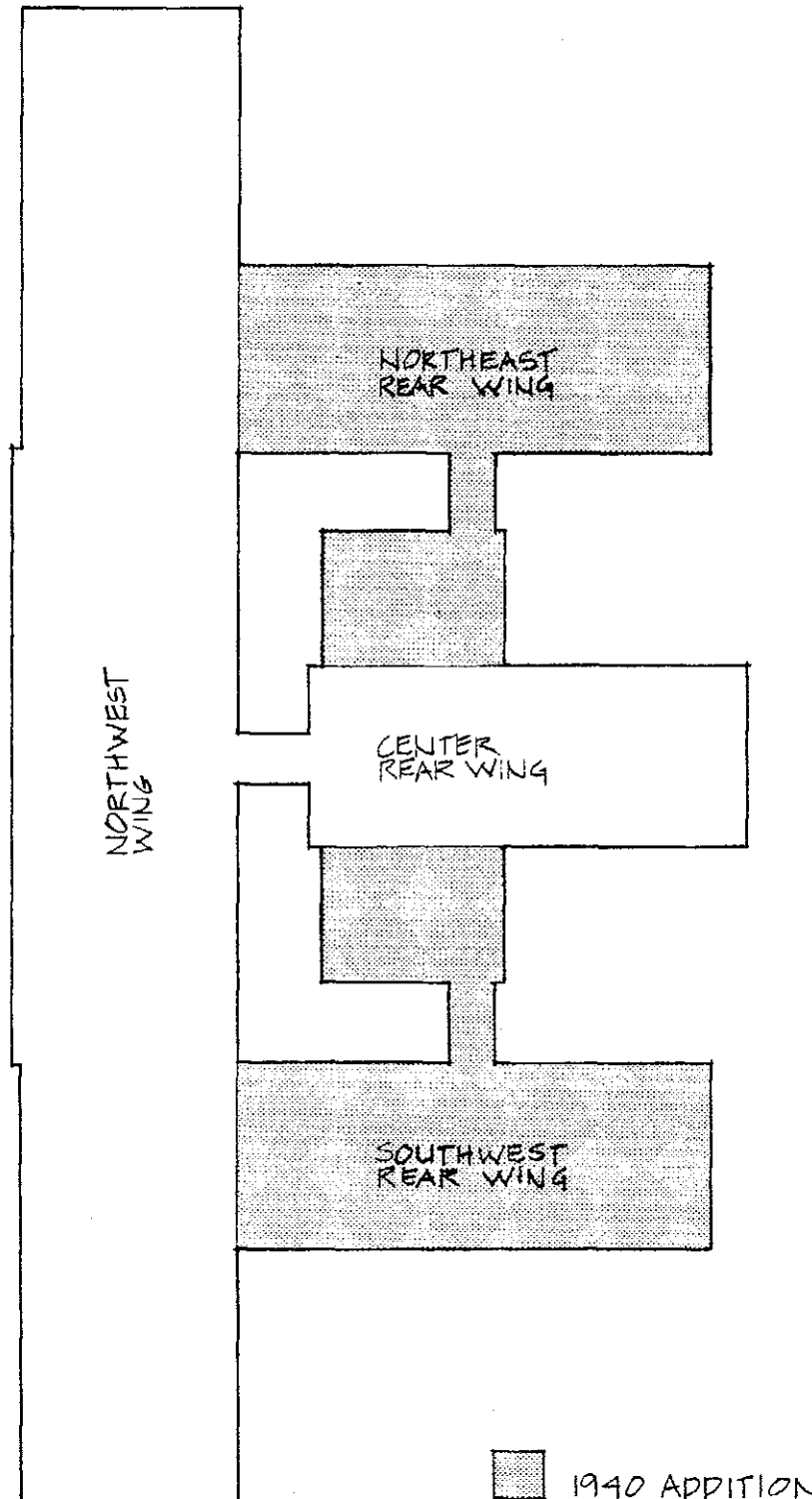
HABS/HAER Inventory Card, November 1985

"Madigan General Hospital, It's Big and Getting Bigger", *Seattle Times*, April 22, 1945.

Madigan General Hospital Silver Anniversary, commemorative publication, 1969.

**Project Information:** The U.S. Army, I Corps and Fort Lewis, WA (Army) have developed a proposal to rehabilitate Building 4290 in order to adapt it for office uses. It has been determined that the Project No. RJ0024-5P will have an effect and that the subject property is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the Washington State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement was entered into by the interested parties on September 27, 1993. The Agreement stipulated that prior to the rehabilitation of Building 4290 and the removal and/or enclosure of the interior corridor door transoms, the I Corps and Fort Lewis contact HABS/HAER at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, to determine the appropriate level of recordation for the subject property. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet that stipulation.

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Date: January 1994

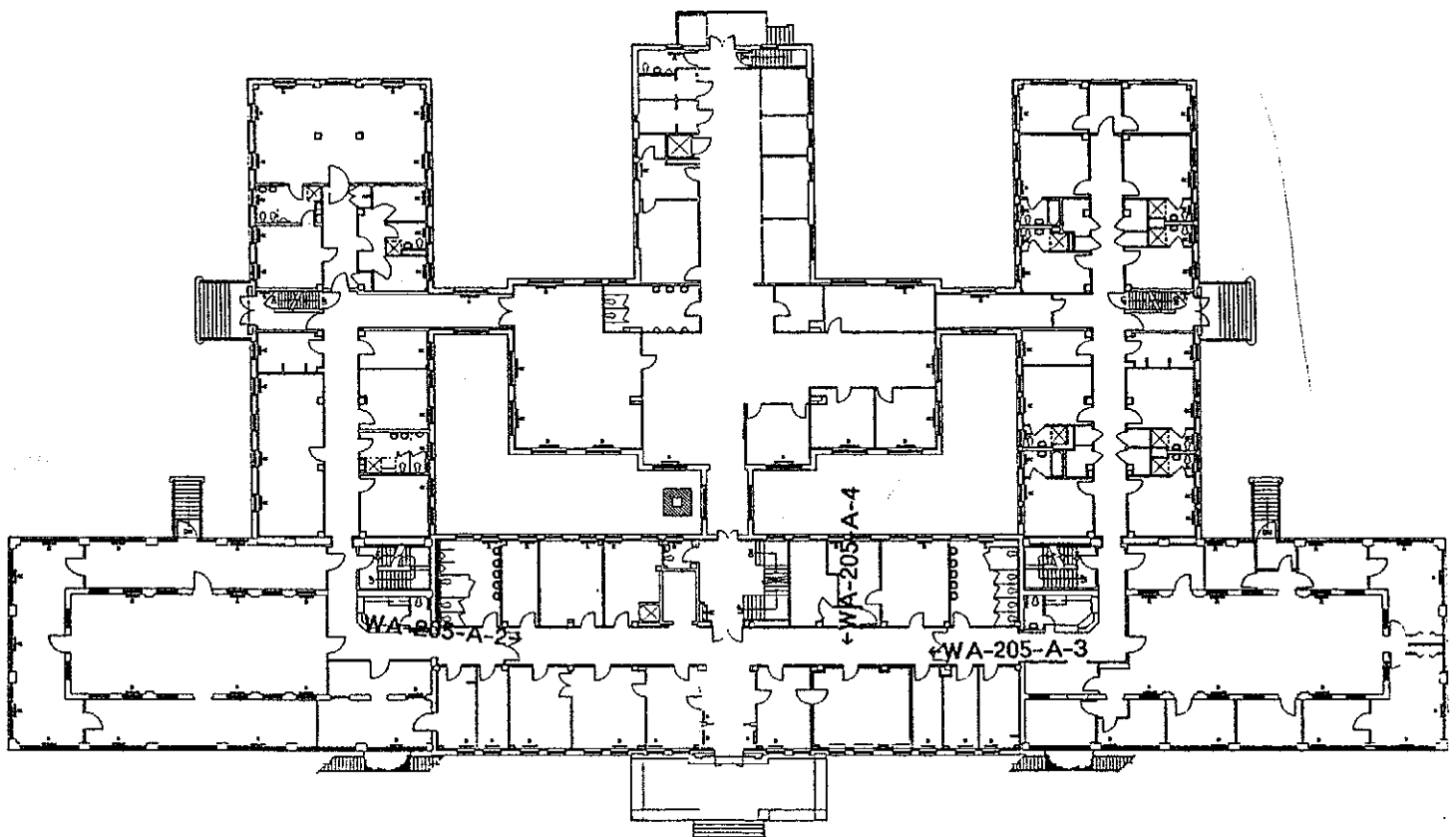


BUILDING # 4290

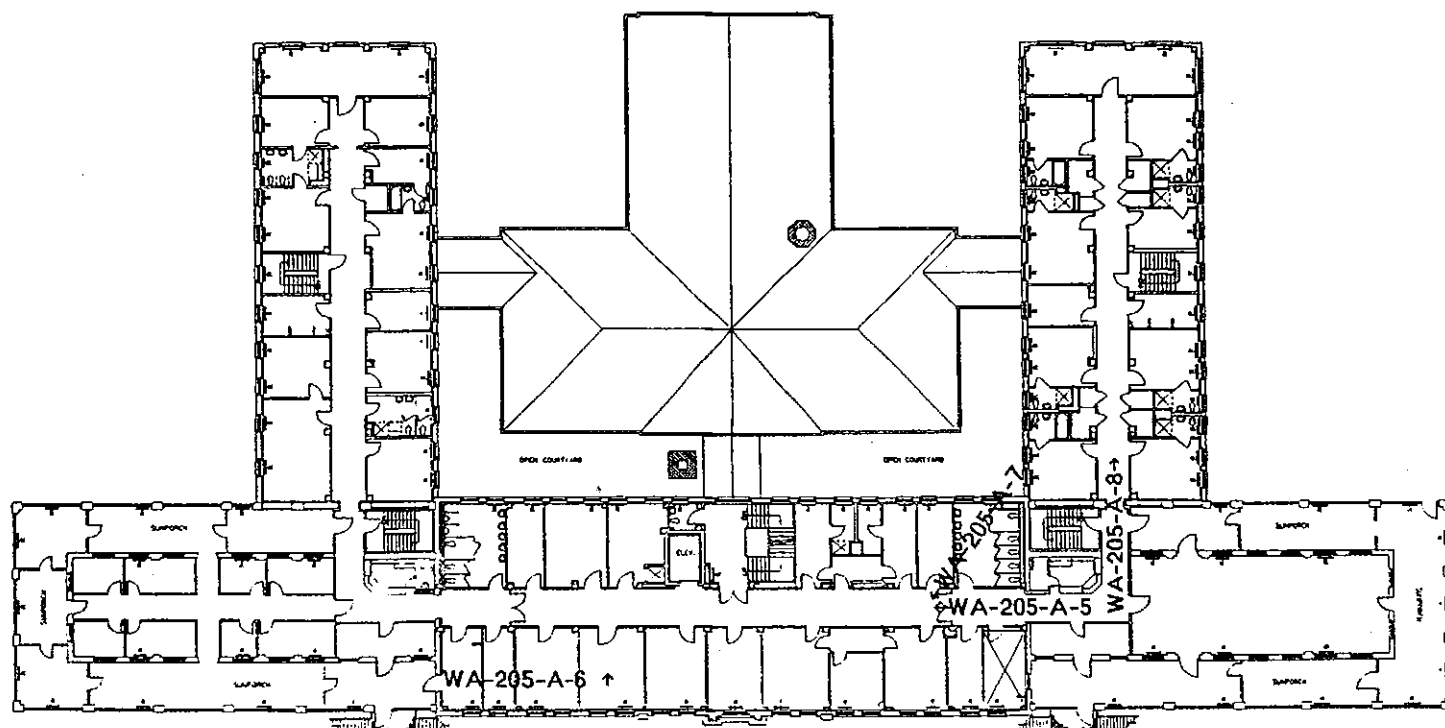
WING DIAGRAM

NO SCALE

JANUARY 1994



First Floor - Bldg 4290



Second Floor - Bldg 4290